

Communique Number 113

1 August 1944

In the western sector Allied forces which entered GRANVILLE have now cleared the town. An advance on a broad front towards the main PERCY-AVRANCHES road, has brought our troops close to VILLEDIEU. There is heavy fighting near PERCY.

Strong enemy resistance continues northwest of TESSY. We have made substantial gains in the TORIGNI-ST MARTIN area. Isolated pockets of resistance throughout the sector are being steadily eliminated.

Escorted heavy bombers attacked ~~the~~ naval vessels at LE HAVRE and the railway centre of LA ROCHE last night, as our air forces kept up their pounding of enemy supply and communication.

Medium bombers hit rail bridges crossing the SEINE at MANTES-GASSICOURT and LE MANOIR and over the LOIRE River at NANTES, TOURS and LES PONTS DE CE. Fuel dumps in the FORET DE LA GUERCHE and at TOURS and ammunition stores southeast of CAEN were bombed effectively.

Fighter bombers, on armed reconnaissance, attacked railways, rolling stock, airfields and motor transport over a wide area.

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Allied progress in the western sectors continues. Armored forces pushing on from AVRANCHES have captured the dams southeast of DUCEY and near VEZINS, while others have taken BRECEY and reached the river SEE in this area. Fighting is going on south of VILLEDIEU though the town itself has not yet been taken.

Our forces have driven further forward in the TESSY area and are now within a mile of the town. There has also been some progress south of TORIGNI SUR VIRE.

In the area south of CAUMONT Allied troops, after clearing the FORET L'EVEQUE, have crossed the river SOULEUVRE and taken LE BENY-BOCAGE.

Poor visibility limited air activity from midnight until noon. During the morning NORMANDY based aircraft attacked targets in advance of our troops.

The activities of the Maquis, which have provided a constant threat to the enemy's rear, are forcing the Germans to employ considerable strength in repressive measures.

In the VERCORS in southeast FRANCE, the Germans, employing artillery, aircraft, and considerable detachments of parachute troops launched an attack on 22 June. French Forces of the Interior, who had already repelled numerous attacks, held the enemy for 56 hours before disengaging and dispersing in the face of overwhelming superiority.

In the DORDOGNE and HAUTE VIENNE, the French Forces of the Interior have thrown back several attacks since 19 July.

German Columns suffered serious losses in engagements in the INDRE and the LOIR ET CHER on 17 July, and in the LOT and the AIN on 20 July.

Attacks on railways continue to disorganize traffic. Trains are held up and thus made targets for more effective air attack. This action assisted Allied aircraft in destroying several trains carrying troops, petrol, and ammunition after the PARIS-NANCY line had been cut by FFI.

On 19 July, CHERISY Viaduct was blown up.

In the LOIRET, the destruction of a railway bridge stopped all traffic on a strategically important line for at least a week.

Movement of enemy troops and materials to the NORMANDY battle front through the AIN, the RHONE and LOIRE valleys and the NORD has been constantly interrupted. Locomotives have been put out of action and water points wrecked.

New cuts in telecommunication and electric power lines have made normal working of these systems impossible. The PARIS-BRUSSELS cable has again been cut in several places. Telephone exchanges and lines have been put out of action in the HERAULT, AIN, and NORD and in the PARIS area.

Attacks on waterways continue. An eight mile stretch of the River SAONE has been drained dry. Several locks on the MARNE between MEAUX and ESBLY were blocked and a convoy of munition barges held up. The canal DE BOURGOGNE, and several canals in the NORD and the ARDENNES, have been put out of action for several weeks.

Communique Number 115

2 August 1944

In the AVRANCHES sector Allied armored forces continue to push forward to the south and east. South of VILLEDIEU further progress has been made.

Allied forces have captured TESSY after heavy enemy resistance. Our hold on LE BENY-BOCAGE and the crossings over the river SOULEUVRE have been strengthened.

Enemy vehicles, ammunition dumps and other battlefield targets were attacked by fighter bombers in close support of our ground forces yesterday.

Better weather during the afternoon made possible a step-up in the Allied air offensive and large-scale attacks were launched on enemy bridges and airfields.

Airfields at CHATEAUDUN, ORLEANS-BRICY, TOURS, CHARTRES, and MELUN, bridges over the SEINE and MARNE Rivers, and an oil dump at ROUEN were attacked by heavy bombers.

Rail bridges crossing the LOIRE, other rail bridges in the LE MANS, CHARTRES, and DREUX areas, a fuel store at ST MALO and an ammunition dump southeast of CAEN were targets for medium and light bombers.

Communique Number 116

2 August 1944

Allied formations have continued to fight their way forward during the day and have now reached VIRE and the road from VIRE to CONDE. The village of ESTRY has been taken and progress continues. There is also heavy fighting in the area of ONDEFONTAINE. Our troops are approaching AUNAY.

In the CAEN area bitter fighting continues against enemy armored formations in the region of TILLY LA CAMPAGNE.

In the western sectors, Allied armored formations have progressed beyond PONTORSON, while other forces are approaching ST POIS and advancing southeast of BRECEY. The town of VILLEDIEU has been captured and further progress has been made south of TORIGNI.

Our air operations were limited by the weather.

3 August 1944

Little change was reported from the front during the night. Southeast of BRECEY enemy opposition was overcome at LE MESNIL-ADELEE and fighting continues a few miles southeast of PERCY. Fighting was also heavy in the neighborhood of VILLERS-BOCAGE and AUNAY. The advance beyond PONTORSON continues.

Bridges, armored vehicles, ammunition and oil dumps, road and rail transport, and enemy shipping were primary targets for Allied aircraft which ranged from BELGIUM to the BAY of BISCAY and deep into southern FRANCE in varying weather, yesterday.

Railway bridges at LISLE, NANTES, EPONE-MERZIER, MAINVILLIERS, NOYEN and CINQ MARS were attacked with good results by escorted medium bombers. Barges on the SEINE and ammunition dumps at CAUDEBEC, MONTREUIL and LE LUDE were also hit.

Fuel dumps at SENS, ST OVEN and GENNEVILLIERS were targets for escorted heavy day bombers which also attacked bridges in the PARIS area and the LOIRE valley and other tactical targets in northern and central FRANCE. Escorted heavy night bombers struck by day at naval vessels in LE HAVRE.

Railway yards were attacked by fighter bombers which also destroyed locomotives, munitions cars and motor transport over a wide area.

Throughout the day, fighters and fighter bombers provided close support for our armies along the entire front.

Ten enemy aircraft were destroyed during these operations. Seventeen of ours are missing.

PERIODICAL COMMUNIQUE NO. 4

031700B August

The Maquis groups in southern and central FRANCE are now contending with steadily increasing German pressure. In most sectors, the Maquis have foiled the enemy by dispersal; in other sectors, the Maquis have withdrawn, after inflicting serious losses on the enemy.

The French Forces of the Interior in the VERCORS, who had to give ground after strong German attacks, have regrouped, and are now being subjected to new attacks. Resistance Forces in the LANGUEDOC were attacked on July 20 by more than 1,000 /Germans, supported by artillery and bombers. After twelve hours' fighting FFI inflicted substantial casualties on the enemy, and destroyed one aircraft.

Resistance shock-troops are carrying out many hit-and-run operations such as setting on fire, destruction of power stations and attacks on factories. In the RHONE Valley, a train of 46 wagons was attacked at close range. Many Germans were killed without the loss of a single member of the FFI.

In the ISERE, on July 23, a petrol train was successfully attacked.

In the LOIR ET CHER rail traffic was suspended.

Attacks on telecommunications have been extensive in TOURAINE, the PARIS area, and the southwest.

Operations against locks and barges in the ARDENNES, the SEINE ET MARNE, the MEURTHE ET MOSELLE and the SEINE ET OISE have interrupted water-borne traffic.

Allied forces have reached RENNES and have elements to the south of the town. Another column advanced through DOL and moving westward along the north side of the BRITTANY PENINSULA has reached the area of DINAN.

Other Allied formations east of the PERCY-VILLEDIEU road have captured BEAUMESNIL and are in the area of ST SEVER CALVADOS. Further south our forces have captured MORTAIN.

In the area southeast of CAUMONT Allied troops have made progress towards VILLERS BOCAGE and AUNAY where there has been some hard fighting. We hold the BOIS DE BURON.

There has been a series of enemy counter-attacks along the entire front from the north and east of LE BENY-BOCAGE.

Good weather yesterday afternoon and evening allowed Allied fighters and fighter bombers, some carrying rockets, to give close support to the ground forces. Barges on the SEINE, an ammunition dump southeast of CAEN, gun positions, and a considerable number of enemy vehicles, were destroyed.

Bridges near PARIS, ORLEANS, CHARTRES, and ROUEN were bombed with satisfactory results by medium and light bombers yesterday. Other formations attacked an ammunition dump at MAINTENON.

Three marshalling yards and an oil dump in ALSACE LORRAINE, objectives near PARIS and BRUSSELS and a synthetic oil plant and a storage depot near DOUAI were hit by strong forces of heavy bombers. Accompanying fighters attacked rolling stock, power stations and other targets.

Rail communications were attacked during the night by our light bombers.

One of a formation of five E-boats was sunk by a direct bomb hit by coastal aircraft in an attack off the Channel Islands.

A force of enemy E-boats was intercepted on Thursday morning west of CAP DE LA HAVRE by light naval coastal forces. In the short action which followed one of the enemy was sunk and another damaged before he made good his escape towards LE HAVRE.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 119

5 August 44

Allied troops have made rapid progress in BRITTANY, fanning out to the neighborhood of LOUDEAC, MAURON, DERVAL and CHATEAU-BRIANT. RENNES is in our hands, and DOL has been cleared of enemy. Our forward troops are already beyond FOUGERES.

Other forces are advancing southeast of LANDIVY and while fighting continues for MORTAIN, advanced troops have reached the area of BARENTON. A large part of the FORET DE ST. SEVER is in our hands.

ESQUAY and EVRECY have been cleared of enemy and leading troops are reported in the area of VACOGNES and AMAYE SUR ORNE. Further south, our position has been improved by the capture of ONDEFONTAINE. Determined enemy counter-attacks in the area east and northeast of VIRE have been frustrated.

Yesterday, escorted heavy bombers attacked targets in widely separated districts of FRANCE, including airfields at LILLE and ACHIET, a railway bridge at ETAPLES, a coastal battery in the PAS DE CALAIS and oil storage depots at PAUILLAC and BEC D'AMBRES, near BORDEAUX.

Medium bombers attacked railway yards at MONTFORT, and BEAUVAIS, a railway embankment at EPERNON and a concentration of enemy troops south of AUNAY. Light bombers went for rail targets in western FRANCE, blowing up an ammunition train near BORDEAUX.

Fighter bombers flew reconnaissance beyond the battle area and in northeastern FRANCE in addition to attacking an oil dump at ANGERS, barges on the SEINE and an airfield near AMIENS. In these operations, locomotives, rolling stock and motor transport were destroyed.

A coastal vessel was blown up during an attack by rocket-firing fighters on a convoy off the DUTCH coast.

During last night road and rail transport and enemy concentrations were attacked by medium and light bombers. Five enemy aircraft were shot down over NORMANDY.

ENDS COMMUNIQUE NO. 119

COMMUNIQUE NO. 120

6 August 1944

In BRITTANY, an Allied armored force has driven to REDON. Another force has continued its attack northwest of DOL. VITRE and PONTIVY have been cleared of the enemy.

RENNES, PONTORSON and AVRANCHES were bombed by the enemy early yesterday. Damage was slight.

SS Panzer troops were captured at DINAN, RENNES and VITRE. An Allied task force has engaged the enemy near ST. MALO.

In NORMANDY, we have moved through the FORET DE ST. SEVER. The forest is not entirely clear of the enemy, and in approaching LA CHAMP DU BOULT, our troops are encountering pockets of machine guns and small arms resistance.

Enemy Panzer units and paratroops are opposing our advance in the town LE MESNIL - GILBERT.

Near VIRE, our forces are encountering enemy artillery fire. We are 1,500 yards from the center of the town.

Further north, enemy pockets of resistance left behind by our advance have now been eliminated. Leading troops have entered AUNAY SUR ODON.

On the west bank of the ORNE, our advance southwards has continued. All the high ground as far south as the village of LE HOMS, a mile north of THURY-HARCOURT, is in our hands.

At midday yesterday, heavy bombers attacked a railway bridge at ETAPLES and submarine pens at BREST. Hits were scored on the pens with 12,000-pound bombs. In the evening oil storage depots at BASSENS and BLAYE near BORDEAUX, and at PAUILLAC, were attacked by other heavy bombers. Two heavy bombers are missing.

Eight railway bridges and embankments on an arc extending from ELBEUF on the SEINE to BRIOLLAY near ANGERS, were attacked by medium and light bombers. Other medium bombers attacked railway yards at COMPIEGNE, SERQUEUX and VERNEUIL, and flak barges in the harbor at ST. MALO.

Locomotives and rolling stock in the CHARTRES - ORLEANS area and motor transport were targets for fighter bombers. Direct support was given our ground forces by fighter bombers. Fighters provided bomber escort.

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed over northern FRANCE during the night.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 121

7 August 44

In the BRITTANY peninsula, Allied troops continue to strengthen their positions in the vicinity of BREST. Our armor has freed CARHAIX, VANNES and REDON and other units have reached the VILAINE River at various points from RENNES to the sea.

CHATEAU GONTIER and HOUSSAY have been cleared of the enemy. MAYENNE River has been crossed 17 miles south of LAVAL. MAYENNE is in our hands.

Allied armor is in the outskirts of VIRE. The FORET DE ST. SEVER is being cleared of light enemy resistance. The strong point of ST. POIS has been taken. Two enemy counter-attacks in that area were unsuccessful.

To the northeast, the high ground at MONT PINCON was captured yesterday by Allied troops after heavy fighting.

Between this area and VIRE, enemy resistance was stubborn and a strong enemy counter-attack was repulsed. The advance continues.

South of CAEN, a local attack on the east bank of the ORNE met heavy enemy resistance in MAY SUR ORNE.

Railway bridges at OISSEL, ST. REMY-SUR-AVRE, COURTA-LAIN and BEAUMONT-SUR-SARTHE, and ammunition and fuel dumps in the forests of BLOIS, ANDAINE and PERSEIGNE, and at LIVAROT, were attacked by escorted medium and light bombers. Other formations attacked Panzer division concentrations near THURY HARCOURT.

Submarine pens near LORIENT were attacked by escorted heavy night bombers.

Fighter bombers hit an ammunition train at BELLEVILLE, south of NANTES, and tanks near SAUMUR, and attacked gun positions, rolling stock and vehicles throughout the day. Rail lines were cut near CHARTRES, TOURS, LE MANS, ST. CYR and ORLEANS.

Four enemy aircraft were destroyed. Eight of ours are missing.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 122

8 August 1944

The largest attack against the western sector since D-day was launched by the enemy Sunday night on a front extending from MORTAIN to SOURDEVAL. At least four German armored divisions are being employed in the drive. MORTAIN has changed hands for the third time and is now held by Allied troops.

The enemy penetrated some three miles in the area of CHERENCE BOUSSEL where a tank battle is in progress. Armor of both sides is involved. Another enemy penetration has been made to ST. BARTHELEMY.

More than 100 tanks and 90 motor vehicles were destroyed in a series of attacks in the MORTAIN area by our fighter bombers and rocket-firing aircraft. Other tanks and trucks were damaged.

In the BRITTANY peninsula, Allied troops have freed CHATEAU-NEUF, and fighting is in progress outside ST. MALO, which is now cut off. ST. BRIEUC has been taken and the advance is continuing beyond the town.

No changes are reported in the areas of BREST and LORIENT. AURAY has been reached by Allied forces. CHATEAUBRIANT has been freed. Sporadic fighting continues over the peninsula.

In NORMANDY, Allied troops have taken FIRE.

Across the river ORNE, a bridgehead was established yesterday in the neighborhood of GRIMBOSQ. Counter-attacks against this bridgehead, and further west, were repulsed. In the MONT PINCON area, mopping-up of the ground won is nearly completed.

Allied troops are attacking south of CAEN.

Heavy bombers, in very great strength, attacked the hinge of the enemy's defense line just south of CAEN before midnight last night. The attack was in clear weather, and a great weight of bombs was dropped on targets indicated by our ground forces.

Earlier in the day, strong forces of heavy bombers, operating in small units, attacked fuel storage points, bridges and rail targets in a wide arc northeast and east of PARIS and southeast of BORDEAUX.

Fighter bombers, sweeping east and southeast of PARIS, destroyed 32 locomotives, 350 railway cars and 80 military vehicles.

Ammunition dumps at LIVAROT, LA FOLLETTIERE, LE LUDE and BAUCHES DU DESERT were attacked by medium and light bombers. Other formations bombed shipping in BREST harbor and bridges at NOGENT LE ROI, NEUVY SUR LOIRE, and CORBIE, east of AMIENS.

At least 20 enemy planes were destroyed in the air during encounters throughout the day and last night.

From all operations, 22 of our aircraft are reported missing.

Early Sunday morning, a force of enemy R-Boats was intercepted close to the port of LE HAVRE by light coastal forces and brought to action. The last R-Boat in the enemy's line received very heavy damage and many hits were observed on another.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 123

9 August 1944

Allied forces in BRITTANY are closing in on the ports of ST. MALO, BREST and LORIENT. Converging columns have pushed to within five miles of LORIENT, and other forces have engaged the enemy four miles from BREST. Fighting is now in progress in the outskirts of ST. MALO. Large fires are burning at both St. MALO and LORIENT, indicating destruction by the Germans of their supplies in both ports.

Confused fighting is in progress around MORTAIN on the NORMANDY front. To the northwest of MORTAIN, a German counter-attack, with tanks and infantry, was broken at GATHEMO, which has been freed. The drive penetrated about one mile into our lines, but heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy by Allied troops, assisted by planes and artillery. The front line in this area now extends generally along the road between GATHEMO and VIRE. In the vicinity of VIRE, the enemy is offering stubborn resistance south and southwest of the town.

The Allied drive south of CAEN progressed some 7,000 yards yesterday. After heavy and accurate preliminary bombing the first objectives were secured by first light and a number of pockets of enemy which had been by-passed in this first advance were cleared up during the day. The advance continued at midday in face of determined enemy resistance, supported by armor. The villages of LA HOGUE, HAUTMESNIL, CINTHEAUX and ST. AIGNAN and the town of BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE are in our hands.

The bridgehead over the River ORNE has been extended, and local advances were made to improve our positions east of MONT PINCON.

Targets in immediate support of the ground forces southwest of CAEN and airfields at LA PERTHE, CLASTRES, VILLACOUBLAY and ROMMILY-SUR-SEINE were attacked successfully by heavy bombers in a day of great air activity.

By last light, and during darkness, heavy bombers also attacked fuel dumps in forests at CHANTILLY, AIRE-SUR-LYS and LUCHEX.

Road and rail bridges were attacked by medium and light bombers, with satisfactory results reported over nine widespread targets, most of them east of the SEINE. Rail yards at IGOVILLE, south of ROUEN, were also attacked.

Long-range and short-range fighters, in considerable numbers, swept the area south and east of the battle zone throughout the day, taking heavy toll of enemy transport and attacking gun positions.

Three enemy minesweepers in the BAY of BISCAY were attacked by rocket-firing coastal aircraft and were left ablaze.

During the night, fires were started among oil tanks south of FONTAINEBLEAU and a crane at DIJON was also set afire by light bombers.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 124

10 August 1944

LE MANS has been liberated by Allied forces, and our troops are in the vicinity of ANGERS in the LOIRE valley.

The city of NANTES has been reached and our columns are converging on LORIENT.

In the BRITTANY peninsula we are now in ST. MALO, but the enemy at DINARD is resisting stubbornly.

Along the north coastal road we have passed through MORLAIX. At BREST the enemy garrison has rejected an ultimatum to surrender and fighting is proceeding outside the city. Lt. Gen. Karl Spang, commanding the German 266th Infantry Division, was captured near BREST.

On the NORMANDY front, there has been no major change in the line. Vigorous patrolling is being carried out in the MAYENNE area. The enemy holds MORTAIN and heavy fighting has been going on north and west of the town. A German counter-attack at GATHEMO was checked by our forces, with the destruction of five of the 25 enemy tanks participating. South of ST. GERMAIN DE TALLEVENDE our troops advanced 1,000 yards.

The Allied advance toward FALAISE has penetrated the first and second German positions and reached the neighborhood of POTIGNY. The village of POUSSY LA CAMPAGNE and ST. SILVAIN have been taken and armored columns have reached ESTREES LA CAMPAGNE and SOIGNOLLES.

Our troops in the bridgehead over the river ORNE repulsed further counter-attacks yesterday and have driven the enemy back. Further west, more ground was gained southeast of MONT PINCON and between ESTRY and VIRE.

Yesterday afternoon, heavy bombers attacked with 12,000-pound bombs the U-boat base at LA PALLICE. A fuel dump in the FORET DE MORMAL, southeast of VALENCIENNES, was also attacked in the afternoon, and last night, heavy attacks were made on two more fuel depots -- at CHATELLERAULT, some 40 miles south of TOURS, and in the FORET D'ENGLOS, near LILLE. None of our heavy bombers are missing.

Railway bridges in the valley of the OISE, and at EPERNON, L'ISLE, ADAM and CHAUNY were attacked by medium and light bombers, as was a rail junction at EPONE-MEZIERES. An ammunition dump in the FORET DE LYONS; military building at TONNEINS on the GARONNE river; a radio installation in the ARGENTAN area and two freighters in BREST harbor were also bombed.

Tanks, gun positions, rolling stock as well as barges on the SEINE were attacked by fighter bombers. Fighters provided escort for bombing missions.

P/- Barges on the SEINE were also attacked last night by light bombers. PT-boats, on offensive patrol off the island of JERSEY, intercepted a southbound enemy convoy off LA CORBIERRE in low visibility early yesterday morning. One enemy vessel was hit by torpedo and one other damaged by gunfire before the convoy escaped.

Shortly after daylight, with visibility further reduced by fog, other PT-boats entered the roadstead of ST. HELIER and attacked two M-class minesweepers with gunfire. Many hits were observed on the enemy before our forces withdrew.

Off the port of LE HAVRE light coastal forces intercepted an enemy vessel under escort of six R-boats. The enemy vessel was sunk. One of the escorts was also hit by torpedo and its destruction is considered probable.

11 August 44

Allied troops have entered the city of NANTES and ANGERS. Enemy resistance was slight at NANTES, but there is extensive enemy mining in the area of both cities.

In the BRITTANY peninsula, mopping-up is proceeding in the area of HENNEBONT, AURAY and QUIBERON on the south coast.

LORIENT has been completely surrounded by Allied troops on the land side.

The enemy is maintaining strong resistance at BREST, where elements of three German divisions are located. Our forces outside the city have been joined by another force which proceeded along the north coastal road of the peninsula.

The enemy defense at ST. MALO has been reduced mainly to a single strong point which still is offering stubborn resistance. A total of 3,000 prisoners has been taken thus far in the port. DINARD, in the ST. MALO area, is still being strongly defended by the Germans.

Hard fighting continues in the MORTAIN-VIRE area of NORMANDY. Stubborn enemy resistance is being encountered north and south of MORTAIN, particularly in the vicinity of ST. BARTHELEMY. Gains of one to one-and-one-half miles were made in a southerly direction by Allied forces in the area of VIRE, and other units are attacking towards GATHEMO against strong German resistance.

Enemy resistance to the Allied thrust toward FALAISE increased considerably yesterday. A strong screen of anti-tank guns and heavily defended positions in the areas FONTAINE LE PIN, QUESNAY, ESTREES LA CAMPAGNE, ST. SILVAIN and VIMONT slowed the advance and heavy fighting resulted. ESTREES LA CAMPAGNE was captured, SOIGNOLLES changed hands several times and fighting in and around VIMONT continued all day.

Allied forces have enlarged the bridgehead over the ORNE with an advance of 4,000 yards, capturing ESPINS, on the fringe of the FORET CINGLAIS, and the villages of CROISILLES and FORGE A CAMBRO.

Driving down from LE PLESSIS GRIMOULT, Allied armor and infantry have captured a number of villages including CAUVILLE and LENAULT, and have reached the vicinity of ST. PIERRE LA VIEILLE.

Despite variable weather and unusually intense anti-aircraft fire in many sectors, Allied aircraft continued their close support of our Armies, especially near LE MANS where fifteen tanks were destroyed. Throughout the day, our planes ranged from BELGIUM to BORDEAUX to attack supply centers and road and rail targets.

Eight enemy aircraft were shot down and 26 others were destroyed or damaged on the ground by our fighters after they had escorted heavy bombers to attack several bridges in the PARIS area and the oil storage center at DUGNY, near the metropolitan airport of LE BOURGET. An estimated 150 locomotives, some 1,000 railway cars and scores of vehicles were shot up by other strong forces of fighter bombers and fighters which also hit numerous rail centers, bridges, barges on the SEINE and two ammunition trains.

Good results were reported from medium bomber attacks designed to destroy or halt repairs on rail bridges and embankments at NOGENT SUR SEINE, ANIZY-LE-CHATEAU, PERONNE, EPONE-MEZIERES, EPERNON, and MEREY.

Submarine oil storage depots at BORDEAUX and LA PALLICE and the DIJON rail center were hit by heavy bombers in a series of midnight attacks.

Enemy rail movements westward from ANTWERP, BRUSSELS, METZ, STRASBOURG, LILLE, SEDAN, and other points east of the SEINE were attacked incessantly by fighter bombers. P/ During the evening five enemy aircraft were shot down over the battle area. P/ Twenty-two of our aircraft are missing.

12 August 1944

Allied troops have crossed the LOIRE river and have reached a point ten miles south of NANTES. Some fighting continues in the areas of NANTES and ANGERS.

In the BRITTANY peninsula, a small part of the enemy's one remaining strong point at ST. MALO is still holding out. Heavy fighting is in progress in DINARD. The situations at BREST and LORIENT remain unchanged.

In NORMANDY, the enemy is maintaining a stubborn defense in the MORTAIN-VIRE sector. Near MORTAIN, an Allied attack is meeting strong resistance from German armored units east and north of the town. Farther north, our troops have pushed beyond GATHEMO to the vicinity of VENGEONS, on the GATHEMO-TINCHEBRAY highway. Further gains have been made below VIRE, and the enemy has been pushed back to a point 1,000 yards south of MAISONCELLES LA JOURDAN.

East of VIRE, Allied troops advanced from 1,000 to 2,000 yards on a six-mile front in spite of determined enemy opposition. Further east, in the vicinity of ST. PIERRE LA VIEILLE, Hills 266 and 229 were captured. Patrols operating from the ORNE bridgehead through the FORET DE CINGLAIS and from east of the LAIZE penetrated to BARBERY.

THURY-HARCOURT and ST. MARTIN DE SALLEN were cleared of enemy, and southeast of THURY-HARCOURT the village of ESSON was taken. Fighting continues in the town of VIMONT.

During the 24 hours ending midnight August 9, the total of prisoners taken, in the western sectors, mostly in BRITTANY, reached 4,822.

In a day of widespread air activity, harbor defense, fuel depots, railway yards and bridges, locomotive depots, submarine shelters, and airfields were under attack by many formations of our heavy bombers.

The stubbornly-resisting harbor defenses of BREST were bombed at more than 20 points by small formations.

Fuel depot targets included ST. FLORENTIN, PACY, STRASBOURG, LA PALLICE, and BORDEAUX.

Railway yards attacked were at STRASBOURG, MULHOUSE, BELFORT, SAARBRUCKEN, LENS, DOUAI and GIVORS.

Airfield targets included VILLACOUBLAY, TOUSSUS LE NOBLE and COULOMMIERS.

Still other targets were the submarine shelters at LA PALLICE and BORDEAUX, the locomotive depots at SOMAIN and the ETAPLES rail bridge, which was attacked last night.

Our medium bombers also operated against a variety of targets. Coastal batteries, which were holding out in the ST. MALO area, were attacked in support of our ground forces. In the FALAISE sector, mortar and artillery positions were bombed. Other targets included an ammunition dump in the FORET DE ROUMARE, rail targets at ST. MAXIMIN and at FISMES, and a temporary bridge at OISSEL.

Fighter bombers operated both in close support of our forces and also on strafing missions in the EVREUX area and from PARIS southeastward to DIJON.

13 August 1944

South of CAEN contact has been made by Allied forces converging between the rivers ORNE and LAIZE. A thrust from BRETTEVILLE SUR LAIZE through BARBERY reached MOULINES, while another advance from the ORNE bridgehead captured BOIS-HALBOUT.

Fighting continued all day in the ST. SILVAIN area where a number of counter-attacks were beaten off and local advances were made.

West of the ORNE fighting continued around Hill 229, which remains in our hands. An Allied advance down the CONDE road made some progress beyond ST. PIERRE LA VIEILLE.

East of VIRE an advance of a mile was made in the face of heavy resistance.

Forces advancing southeastward in the VIRE area are experiencing decreasing enemy resistance. Progress has been made to a position east of MAISONCELLES LA JOURDAN, and along the GATHEMOTINCHEBRAY road east of VENGEONS. Patrols have penetrated as far as SOURDEVAL in the sector between VIRE and MORTAIN. MORTAIN has been reoccupied by our troops, but the enemy is still offering strong resistance in the vicinity of the town.

In BRITTANY, our forces are attacking the citadel at ST. MALO, where remnants of the enemy garrison are still resisting. Heavy fighting continues in DINARD. In the area of BREST a local enemy counter-attack was repulsed north of the city. The situation at LORIENT remains unchanged.

In the LOIRE valley mopping up is proceeding in ANGERS, which is now in our hands.

A large area north, east and south of PARIS was swept continuously yesterday by our long-range fighters which reported great destruction of enemy rolling stock, ammunition trains and lorries, barges, marshalling yards and bridges. There was some air opposition and six enemy fighters were shot down.

U-boat shelters at BREST, LA PALlice and BORDEAUX, a petrol dump at FORET DE MONTRICHARD, rail yards at METZ and nine air-fields were attacked by heavy bombers.

At OISSEL the only usable SEINE bridge north of PARIS was successfully attacked by our medium bombers, which also operated against road junctions and other targets near ARGENTAN.

NORMANDY-based aircraft operated throughout the day, giving immediate support to ground forces.

Enemy shipping off the west coast of FRANCE was attacked by coastal aircraft which reported setting fire to a medium-sized vessel and blowing up a mine sweeper.

Last night, enemy troop concentrations in the FALAISE area were attacked by our heavy bombers.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 128

14 August 1944

Further progress was made west of the river ORNE, where Allied troops entered CLAIR TIZON and DONNAY. South of ST. PIERRE LA VIEILLE the advance continued along the high ground on each side of the road to CONDE.

Southeast of VIRE ground was gained in heavy fighting.

Further south, toward MORTAIN, our forces, following up the German withdrawal, encountered mines and long-range artillery fire.

In BRITTANY, the Allied attack on DINARD continues to meet strong resistance and remnants of the GERMAN garrison at ST. MALO still hold out in the citadel. Slight advances have been made by our units in the vicinity of BREST. There has been no change in the situation at LORIENT.

Highways and road junctions on both sides of the SEINE from PARIS to the sea, and westwards to LISIEUX and RUGLES, were attacked by heavy and medium bombers. Medium bombers also attacked rail bridges at PERONNE, BEAUTOR, DOULLENS and CHERISY, rail facilities at CORBEIL, and enemy gun positions in the FALAISE area.

A railway bridge over the SEINE at LE MANOIR, U-boat shelters at BREST, an oil storage depot for U-boats at BORDEAUX and gun positions at ST. MALO and on the ILE DE CEZEMBRE were other targets for heavy bombers. From these operations fourteen heavy and two medium bombers are missing.

Fighters, fighter bombers and rocket-firing fighters provided cover for the ground forces and bombed and strafed tanks, motor transport, strong points and troop concentrations in the battle zone. Fighters also ranged over northeastern and central FRANCE, attacking locomotives, railway cars, motor transport and canal barges, while other fighters provided escort for bombing missions.

Light bombers last night continued their attack on transport targets behind the enemy's lines.

15 August 44

Advances were made yesterday on both sides of the FALAISE-ARGENTAN gap.

Allied troops attacking towards FALAISE from the north quickly gained their first objectives and, having crossed the river LAISON, are now firmly established within 7,000 yards of the town.

On the other side of the gap, the thrust northward from LE MANS and ALENCON has reached the vicinity of ARGENTAN. Pockets of resistance left behind in this advance are being mopped up near ALENCON.

Inside the NORMANDY pocket advances were made.

Between the LAIZE and the ORNE an advance of some 5,000 yards brought our forward elements to the vicinity of the village of BONNOEIL. In the ORNE valley, THURY-HARCOURT was cleared of enemy.

North of CONDE the village of PROUSSY was taken and our troops are approaching ST. DENIS DE MERE.

Further west, Allied troops advanced to within a mile of VASSY, and southeast of VIRE an advance of a mile has brought us to a point about one mile from TINCHEBRAY.

Other units advancing south of VIRE are moving along the GATHEMO-TINCHEBRAY road against moderate resistance. Troops pushing eastward from MORTAIN have reached GER.

Along the southern boundary of the pocket our columns moving from the BARENTON area are approaching DOMFRONT and units which reached RANES are encountering increasing resistance.

In BRITTANY, fighting is still in progress at ST. MALO, where the situation remains unchanged, and at DINARD, where we have made advances towards the port. At BREST and LORIENT there is nothing new to report.

Throughout the third consecutive day of clear weather, massive formations of all types of Allied aircraft hammered at GERMAN forces in the NORMANDY pocket and attacked airfields, bridges and communications targets from western GERMANY to BORDEAUX, virtually without opposition.

Seven enemy strong points massing tanks, guns and troops north of FALAISE were attacked by more than 700 escorted heavy bombers in a concentrated bombardment preceeding an advance of our ground forces. Three other strong points south of MEZIDON were hit by medium bombers in a precision operation only 3,000 yards in advance of our troops.

Six highway bridges over the TOUQUES river north and south of LISIEUX were attacked by more than 250 medium bombers which also pounded bridges and railway junctions at NOGENT-LE-ROI, LES FOULONS, EPONE-MEZIERES, FREVENT, ST. MARTIN and PONTOISE.

Escorted heavy bombers struck shipping and harbor installations at BREST in two attacks, and others ranged from eastern FRANCE to the BORDEAUX area, hitting three airfields near DIJON and the ANGOULEME and SAINTES railway yards with good results.

The day-by-day fighter bomber and fighter onslaught against enemy communications entered its second week with widespread attacks on road and rail targets in areas on both sides of the SEINE. At least 750 railway cars and hundreds of motor vehicles were destroyed and damaged in the areas of FALAISE, LAIGLE, DOMFRONT, EVREUX, CHARTRES, ST. ANDRE and east of the SEINE.

Light bombers harried enemy movements during the night, causing large fires and explosions at several points near FALAISE and south of PARIS. P/ Twenty-nine enemy aircraft were destroyed. Twenty-four of ours are missing. P/ A heavy battery on the island of ALDERNEY has been subjected to naval bombardment.

16 Aug 44

Allied troops are in the outskirts of FALAISE and dominate the communications in this area.

All along the northern flank of the enemy pocket our forces are driving steadily forward in spite of attempts to delay us with mines and booby traps.

The villages of COSSESSEVILLE and TREPREL between the rivers ORNE and LAIZE were taken.

CONDE was by-passed by a thrust across the river NOIREAU a few miles east of the town. TINCHEBRAY has been captured.

Our troops along the western and southern flanks of the pocket have also advanced generally.

DOMFRONT, GER and LA FERTE MACE have been freed. Our forces have entered YVRANDES, three miles south of TINCHEBRAY.

Further east, other units are pushing northward beyond RANES, where strong enemy opposition is being met. Southeast of RANES and in the vicinity of ALENCON, mopping-up operations are proceeding against enemy groups cut off by the advance northward.

In ARGENTAN, we hold a portion of the city and enemy resistance is stubborn.

In BRITTANY, the citadel at ST. MALO continues to hold out. Organized resistance has ceased at DINARD. There are no changes to report from BREST or LORIENT.

A massive force of Allied heavy bombers was thrown against key German airforce stations in western GERMANY and the LOW COUNTRIES yesterday. Twenty-one main Luftwaffe headquarters, control stations and airfields were attacked by 1,900 four-engined bombers, with fighter escort in great strength.

Key installations bombed were at COLOGNE/OSTHEIM, WIESBADEN and FRANKFURT, all in the RHINE valley; airforce stations at WITTMUND, BAD ZWISCHENAHN, VECHTA, HANDORF, HOPSTEN and PLANTLUNNE in northwest GERMANY; FLORENNES in BELGIUM, and TWENTY/ENSCHDEDE and VENLO, in HOLLAND.

Other targets attacked were at LE CULOT, ST. TROND, TIRLEMONT, and BRUSSELS/MELSBROEK in BELGIUM and GILZE-RIJEN, DEELEN, SOESTERBERG, VOLKEL, and EINDHOVEN in HOLLAND.

Communications targets and an ammunition dump in northern FRANCE, and defenses in the ST. MALO area, were attacked by medium bombers. Heavy damage resulted from the bombing of the AUVERS-SUR-OISE and L'ISLE ADAM bridges over the OISE. The SERQUEUX rail center was attacked and fires resulted from a medium bomber mission against a fuel dump in the FORET DE CHANTILLY, twenty miles north of PARIS.

Fighter bombers and rocket-firing aircraft continued to seek out targets in the NORMANDY pocket. Eighteen tanks and more than 175 vehicles, including half-tracks, were destroyed, and an equal number damaged in the area.

Thirty locomotives were put out of commission in a fighter bomber sweep against the rail yard at BRAINE-LE-COMTE, in BELGIUM.

Thirty-seven enemy planes were destroyed in the air.

From all of these operations 20 bombers and 16 fighters are missing.

PERIODICAL COMMUNIQUE NO. 5

161700B August

In BRITTANY, the French Forces of the Interior have operated in close cooperation with other Allied forces.

Resistance forces have entered the towns of SIZUN, BRASPARTS, FLEYBEN, CHATEAUNEUF, CORAY and MILIZAC, and taken by storm the towns of QUIMPERLE, BAL TALEC, CHATEAULIN, and DOUARNENEZ. Several hundred prisoners have been taken in the neighborhood of PAIMPOL, where 1,500 Germans are encircled by resistance forces. Numerous prisoners and a considerable amount of war material have been captured at QUIMPER.

Further east the German garrison at MOUTIERS, southeast of RENNES, has been annihilated in fierce fighting.

Throughout central and southern FRANCE, resistance action has quickened. Many minor harassing actions have been fought with the enemy, who is suffering increasingly severe casualties. Cuts have been maintained on the railways, completely disorganizing lines of communications.

In the SAVOIE, the German garrison occupying the TARANTAISE has been driven back by resistance forces towards ITALY. The retreating enemy is now coming into contact with Italian and French Maquis groups and surrendering.

At BOURG ST. MAURICE, the enemy garrison has been wiped out.

FFI in the neighborhood of GEX have brought down their sixth German aircraft.

In the north of FRANCE, the French Forces of the Interior have burnt 400,000 gallons of petrol.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 131

17 Aug 44

Allied troops have made further gains in the NORMANDY pocket.

Our forces are clearing the last enemy from the town of FALAISE. East of the town heavy fighting continues.

Most of the road from FALAISE to CONDE is in our hands and the town of CONDE has been captured.

Forward elements advancing from the west and northwest have reached FLERS. To the east, enemy opposition was bitter and the Allied advance was made more difficult by the enemy's large-scale use of mines, booby-traps, and demolitions.

Further west advances have been made east of TINCHEBRAY, which has been freed, and east from GER.

Mopping-up has been completed in the vicinity of JUVIGNY and in the FORET D'ANDAINNE, east of DOMFRONT. North of LA FERTE MACE and northeast of DOMFRONT gains of up to six miles have been made against resistance which varies from light to moderate.

North of RANES, which has been by-passed, our units are encountering heavy opposition.

In ARGENTAN, the enemy still holds most of the city and fighting is in progress.

In BRITTANY, the port of DINARD has been completely occupied. The German garrison at ST. MALO is maintaining stubborn defense in the citadel.

Bad weather limited the Allied air effort over northern FRANCE yesterday.

Five bridges over the River RISLE, which flows parallel to the SEINE on the western side, were attacked by our medium bombers, and an ammunition dump near ROUEN was bombed by light bombers.

Last night crossing points on the SEINE and road transport near DIJON, were successfully attacked by our light bombers.

Night fighters destroyed seven enemy aircraft over the battle area.

Allied forces driving east have liberated DREUX, CHARTRES, CHATEAUDUN, and ORLEANS. East of CHARTRES, the AUNAY river has been crossed and at DREUX a bridgehead has been established over the EURE. ST. CALAIS and AUTHON, both in the path of the eastward drive, have also been liberated.

In the NORMANDY pocket heavy opposition is being encountered north of RANES. FROMENTEL, northwest of RANES, has been freed. Our troops north of LA FERTE MACE have advanced 3,000 yards against light and scattered resistance. American patrols have made contact with British forces along the line north and north-east of DOMFRONT.

Allied troops advancing from the FLERS area have taken ATHIS and crossed the river ROUVRE east of LA CARNEILLE. East of the ORNE, our forces pushing to RAPILLY and to the vicinity of ST. PHILBERT, further compressed the area still occupied by the enemy.

FALAISE was cleared of enemy yesterday morning and our troops are established on the high ground south of the town, while to the southeast they advanced down the railway from DAMBLAINVILLE to take FRESNE LA MERE.

After capturing BAROU and NORREY EN AUGER, our forces drove on to the area of TRUN and CHAMBOIS. ST. PIERRE SUR DIVES and MEZIDON are in our hands and we are pushing eastward along the whole of our northern sector. North of MEZIDON our troops have reached the line of the DIVES as far as BURES, and we have taken TROARN and BAVENT.

In BRITTANY, the citadel at ST. MALO has fallen. At DINARD, which has now been liberated, the German commander and his staff were captured. Numerous enemy pockets, which were isolated in the drive through the peninsula, are being mopped-up along the north and south coast with the aid of French resistance forces.

Heavy bombers attacked shipping at BREST yesterday afternoon.

Sixteen bridges spanning the river RISLE, from FOULBEC near its mouth to LA FERRIERE-SUR-RISLE, 35 miles upstream, were attacked by medium and light bombers in two operations during the day. A fuel dump near LA MAILLERAYE-SUR-SEINE was the target for other medium bombers.

Rail lines from BELGIUM to FRANCE were systematically patrolled by fighters as far as the River SEINE. They successfully attacked locomotives, tunnels, bridges, and large numbers of railway cars.

Enemy road transport, particularly in eastern NORMANDY, was heavily attacked by fighters, which also hit tanks, strong points, troop concentrations and barges on the SEINE.

During the night, light bombers attacked transportation targets in NORMANDY and southeast of PARIS.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 133

19 Aug 44

The net around the German forces in NORMANDY was drawn tighter yesterday.

American and British troops established contact near BRIOUZE. From the west an advance was made to approximately the line of the River ORNE.

Advances were also made towards the escape route of German troops streaming eastwards in an attempt to avoid complete encirclement.

Our forces, moving from the south, made progress east and west of ARGENTAN against enemy opposition. A thrust down the ARGENTAN road from the north took us to PIERREFITTE. Our hold on TRUN and the area near CHAMBOIS was extended eastward to CHAMPEAUX.

Further north, the advance continued and our troops have crossed both the River DIVES and the River VIE near NOTRE DAME D'ESTREES. ST. JULIEN LE FAUCON has been taken and in the coastal area we have reached DOZULE and the outskirts of CABOURG and DIVES SUR MER.

In the DREUX area, our troops have widened their bridgeheads across the River EURE north and south of the city. Farther south, VENDOME has been freed.

The last enemy resistance on the north coast of BRITTANY has been overcome with the elimination of a German pocket in the LANNION-PAIMPOL area.

Around-the-clock attacks by Allied aircraft against enemy troops and transport, airfields, communications systems, and supply centers has been maintained from Thursday midnight.

The first attacks began with medium and light bombers harassing enemy movements on both sides of the upper SEINE.

From first light Friday, fighter bombers and fighters repeatedly swept the area from the immediate battle front to east of the SEINE and deep into BELGIUM and HOLLAND. They destroyed or damaged many hundreds of railway cars and motor vehicles, at least 10 tanks and numerous locomotives and armored vehicles, especially at the mouth of the NORMANDY pocket. A convoy of 500 vehicles was successfully attacked by rocket-firing fighters northeast of TRUN, and a large number were destroyed or damaged. On the SEINE, two river steamers and many barges were sunk.

At least 51 enemy aircraft were destroyed in combat or on the ground by fighters which had escorted heavy bombers to attack five key airfields at METZ, NANCY-ESSEY, ROYE-AMY, ST. DIZIER, ROMMILY-SUR-SEINE. Sixteen other enemy planes were shot down in a single engagement near BEAUVAIS. Other heavy bomber targets included ships and oil storage tanks at BORDEAUX submarine shelters at LA PALLICE and fuel depots near GHENT, NANCY, PACY-SUR-ARMANCON, the railway center of CONNANTRE and bridges over the MEUSE river at MAASTRICHT, NAMUR and HUY.

Heavy and medium bombers made three coordinated attacks on an important ammunition dump in the forest of L'ISLE ADAM north of PARIS. Rail embankments at VERBERIE, GOURNAY-EN-BRAY and RIVECOURT and a fuel dump at VALENTON were attacked by other medium and light bombers.

Last night, light bombers and fighters, working in close support of our troops, dropped flares on enemy forces retreating eastward from the FALAISE area and continued to harry them.

From all of these operations 39 of our aircraft are ~~now~~ missing.

20 August 1944

Allied forces have advanced to the vicinity of the SEINE and have closed the enemy escape corridor south of FALAISE.

Leading elements moving north and northeast from DREUX have reached a point 18 miles beyond the city to the vicinity of MANTES-GASSICOURT.

Allied forces from north and south have met in CHAMBOIX, sealing the exit south of FALAISE. The area of the enemy pocket has again been reduced substantially by advances from all directions, particularly southwards towards MONTABARD and north to ECOUCHE, where heavy fighting has taken place. West of ARGENTAN, in the area southeast of PUTANGES, we have completed the mopping up of enemy groups behind the southern edge of the pocket.

Further north, in the area east of ST. PIERRE-SUR-DIVES, our troops have continued to thrust eastwards and have established three bridgeheads over the river VIE at LIVAROT, COUPSARTE and GRANDCHAMP.

No changes are reported in the areas of CHARTRES and ORLEANS, or in the BRITTANY peninsula.

Our NORMANDY-based planes continued their heavy attacks on tanks and motor vehicles of all types retreating eastward, and against river barges on the SEINE. They also provided close support for our advancing columns.

Roads in the escape corridor in the vicinity of ORBEC are strewn with knocked-out vehicles, often making it difficult for our pilots to select active targets.

More than 800 motor trucks were destroyed and 600 damaged yesterday from the line FALAISE-ARGENTAN northeastward to the SEINE, in addition to 40 tanks destroyed and many others damaged.

Twenty-six large river barges on the SEINE were sunk by fighter bombers during the day. Fifty-nine were destroyed the previous day.

Direct hits were registered during an attack by coastal aircraft on small groups of enemy E-boats in the eastern Channel early yesterday.

A small force of heavy bombers attacked the LA PALLICE oil storage depot yesterday morning.

Other operations by aircraft based in ENGLAND were curtailed by weather.

A force of enemy E and R-boats was intercepted off CAP DE LA HEVE by light coastal forces early Saturday. After a short engagement, during which damage was inflicted on the enemy, our force withdrew leaving the enemy craft firing upon each other in some confusion.

An armed trawler and an M-class minesweeper were also attacked by light coastal forces off the entrance to the harbor of LE HAVRE despite the fire of the shore batteries, which prevented observation of results.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 135

21 August 1944

Further progress in the Allied drive toward LISIEUX has been made. A thrust northeast of GRANDCHAMP brought us to within five miles of the town.

Gains were made on the right bank of the River VIE against determined opposition. The town of LIVAROT was taken and a successful attack was made south of DUZULE.

Mopping-up continued south of FALAISE, where several strenuous attempts by enemy armor to break out were frustrated. ARGENTAN is in our hands. Allied troops occupying CHAMBOIS have held an enemy counter-attack toward the town from the northwest.

Enemy forces caught in the trap, including elements of at least 14 divisions, are being subjected to heavy artillery fire.

Allied units are on the SEINE in the vicinity of MANTES-GASSICOURT. To the south, our forces in the DREUX area are mopping-up pockets of resistance. The elimination of isolated German units around ORLEANS has been completed.

Heavy rainstorms and low clouds limited our air operations. Nevertheless, NORMANDY-based fighters and fighter bombers continued to harass the enemy withdrawal in the BERNAY area. There was some enemy air reaction and we shot down 12 enemy aircraft.

Concentrations of troops waiting to cross the SEINE near ROUEN were attacked by our medium bombers.

Last night, SEINE ferry ~~crossings~~ crossings at four points between ELBEUF and the coast were attacked by our light bombers. Several barges were hit. Considerable damage was done to road transport in the BERNAY area where bombing by flares was carried out.

On Saturday and Sunday, enemy batteries at HOULGATE and BENERVILLE, which had been interfering with our advance on the northern flank were engaged and neutralised by H. M. S. EREBUS. Early Sunday morning, a coastal patrol of six R-boats was intercepted by light coastal forces. The enemy brought to action under cover of his shore defences off LE HAVRE and considerable damage was inflicted upon his craft before our patrols withdrew to seaward.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 136

22 August 1944

Good progress has been made between LISIEUX and the sea, where Allied troops have captured DOZULE and DIVES-SUR-MER and advanced to ANNEBAULT and BONNEBOSQ. West of LISIEUX we have taken CAMBREMER, while an advance north of ST. MARTIN DE LA LIEUE has brought our troops within a mile of LISIEUX itself. Fighting is going on in the vicinity of VIMOUTIERS.

Further south, an advance has been made east of CHAMBOIS, and GACE is in our hands.

Determined enemy efforts to break out of the encirclement were again checked effectively. Mopping-up continues.

There is nothing further to report from the remainder of the front.

Weather severely restricted air operations yesterday, but during the evening, coastal aircraft attacked enemy shipping near the mouth of the GIRONDE River.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 137

23 August 1944

Allied forces have liberated SENS, on the east bank of the River YONNE. PITHIVIERS and ETAMPES are also in our hands.

North of DREUX, other units are moving northwestward between the rivers SEINE and EURE. A drive northward between DREUX and VERNEUIL has liberated NONANCOURT, and the advance has carried to a point north of ST. ANDRE DE L'EURE.

To the west considerable advances have been made along the whole Allied front between LAIGLE and the sea. In the center of this wide sweep our forces are fighting in LISIEUX.

North of the town our forces have surged forward all along the line, captured CABOURG, HOULGATE, VILLERS-SUR-MER and DEAUVILLE along the coast and have reached TROUVILLE, PONT L'EVEQUE and the line of the River TOUQUES further south.

South of LISIEUX, our troops have established a broad bridgehead extending for several miles further east across the ORBEC River.

Other troops have advanced across the river VIE through VIMOUTIERS, crossed the River TOUQUES and have reached the area of the town of ORBEC.

Continuing the advance from GACE our troops have captured LAIGLE.

The FALAISE pocket has been eliminated.

Allied fighter bombers and fighters continued to pound the enemy at SEINE crossings, destroying more than 200 vehicles, 15 boats and barges and six tanks. These attacks, made through rain and cloud, were often delivered at 200 feet despite heavy anti-aircraft fire and strong air opposition.

More than 150 railway cars were destroyed or damaged by other formations operating to the east and southeast of PARIS. Marshalling yards at DIJON and CHARNY were attacked with good results.

At least 31 enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and six on the ground. Preliminary reports show two of ours are missing.

During a gun action fought Monday morning south of CAP D'ANTIFER between light coastal forces of the Royal Navy and an enemy patrol of armed trawlers and R-boats, one trawler was severely damaged and an R-boat destroyed. Two other R-boats received serious damage.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 138

24 August 1944

Southeast of PARIS, Allied forces have reached the vicinity of CORBEIL and MELUN, and reconnaissance elements are 15 miles east of SENS. Farther south units are east of MONTARGIS, after crossing the LOING river.

The Allied enveloping drives towards the lower SEINE continue.

Units advancing northwards have liberated EVREUX and are now several miles beyond the city. Other units have reached CONCHES after freeing VERNEUIL.

A thrust northeast from MONNAI progressed about five miles and a drive northeastwards from ORBEC reached the village of THIBOUTIERE.

Several bridgeheads have been made across the River TOUQUES. Fighting continued in the area of LISIEUX where the enemy had taken up strong positions dominating the eastern exit from the town. In the PONT L'EVEQUE area, enemy resistance was stubborn and between there and LISIEUX heavy mortar fire was brought down on our troops crossing the river.

The enemy's dwindling road, rail and water transport systems were attacked by our aircraft yesterday. Fighter bombers destroyed more than 500 motor transport in the woods and on the roads in the ELBEUF-LOUVIERS area, and sank 15 river barges at TOURNEDOS-SUR-SEINE.

Both flak and enemy air opposition were encountered along the river, and as far east as SENS where our fighters gave support to the ground forces. Seventeen enemy planes were destroyed in the air in this sector and 12 others damaged. Fifteen of our aircraft are missing.

In the CAMBRAI-LILLE area, rail yards and canal barges were attacked effectively and without loss.

Fires resulted from an attack by a small force of medium bombers on a fuel dump near ROUEN.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 139

25 August 1944

After overcoming considerable enemy opposition, elements of the 2nd French Armored Division, under General Leclerc, have entered the outskirts of PARIS. South and southeast of the capital, Allied troops have crossed the SEINE near MELUN and in the FONTAINEBLEAU area. Further up river, we have occupied MONTEREAU. East of MONTARGIS, now in our hands, American units have made further gains.

Our forces now closing in towards the SEINE estuary have made further advances.

A thrust from the south has brought us to the southern outskirts of ELBEUF and to GAILLON, southeast of LOUVIERS.

The advance from the west gained fresh impetus yesterday after the last enemy resistance at LISIEUX and PONT L'EVEQUE had been overcome.

Allied forces moving northeast from MONNAI have reached the area of BROGLIE. In a rapid thrust from the ORBEC area, our troops have captured THIBERVILLE and advanced several miles to the banks of the River RISLE, east of BERNAY, which is in our hands. Other troops from LISIEUX have reached the RISLE, near BRIONNE.

Southeast of PONT L'EVEQUE, our forces, after seizing the high ground at BLANGY, have advanced to the line of the river CALONNE from the area of MOYAUX, on the right, to LES AUTHIEUX, on the left. Further north, we have captured the FORET DE ST. GATIEN and have reached the main road south of BEUZEVILLE. On the coast we have captured TROUVILLE and are approaching HONFLEUR.

Enemy escape lines in the SEINE area were attacked yesterday by fighters and fighter bombers, as weather permitted. The attacks were continued last night by light bombers which also struck at motor transport in the DIEPPE - BEAUVAIS area and bombed railways in BELGIUM and northeast FRANCE.

E-boat and R-boat pens at IJMUIDEN in HOLLAND and shipping at BREST were attacked with good results in daylight yesterday by heavy bombers.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 140

26 August 1944

More Allied armor and infantry are in PARIS, following the entrance of the Second French Armored Division Friday morning, and all resistance in the southern and southwestern outskirts has been overcome. By noon yesterday, one armored column had crossed the SEVRES bridge over the SEINE and another column had progressed into the southern part of the city. Infantry followed the armor and advanced to the CATHEDRAL of NOTRE DAME.

South of PARIS, the enemy holds the east edge of the SEINE between VILLENEUVE ST. GEORGES and CORBEIL. Between CORBEIL and MELUN, reconnaissance elements have crossed the river. No changes have been reported from the areas of MONTEREAU, or MONTARGIS, both of which are in our hands.

The enemy is withdrawing northeast from MONTARGIS and we have patrols as far east as TROYES.

ELBEUF has been liberated and Allied troops between there and the sea are rapidly approaching the SEINE. The river RISLE has been crossed at many places and our troops hold both banks as far north as MONTFORT-SUR-RISLE. We have taken HONFLEUR and BEUZEVILLE.

Further to the southeast, EPAIGNES and ST. GEORGES DU VIEVRE are in our hands, and British and Canadian forces have made contact with American troops.

BREST was subjected to attack by land, air and sea. Enemy strong points, including the arsenal, were attacked by medium and heavy bombers yesterday afternoon and last night. Coastal batteries and selected targets were bombarded from the sea.

A fuel dump at CLERMONT, east of BEAUVAIS, was attacked by medium bombers during the afternoon.

Fighters and fighter bombers attacked tanks, motor vehicles and barges, particularly in the lower SEINE and eastward from the river. Medium bombers also hit concentrations of motor vehicles near ROUEN.

There was more opposition in the air, and 51 enemy aircraft were shot down, and others were destroyed on the ground. Twenty-one of our aircraft are missing.

Motor transport and trains in northeastern FRANCE were attacked during the night by our light bombers.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 141

27 August 1944

Allied troops advancing eastwards towards the upper SEINE valley have reached the river in the northern outskirts of TROYES and at a point 12 miles farther north.

Nearer PARIS, armored units have launched an attack between MELUN and CORBEIL where a bridgehead had been previously established.

Approximately 10,000 enemy troops including the German commander and his staff were taken prisoner in PARIS. One enemy strong point has been holding out in CHAMPIGNY on the southeast edge of the city and small enemy groups still operate in the northeast and northwest suburbs.

Within the city, formal resistance has ceased but some sniping continues.

In the SEINE valley armored elements have advanced along the south side of the river in the area between MANTES-GASSICOURT and PARIS encountering slight opposition.

Allied forces have closed in towards the south bank of the SEINE and have crossed the river at VERNON and PONT DE L'ARCHE. Further west our troops have captured BOURGTHEROULDE and are clearing the enemy from the FORET DE LA LONDE. In the coastal area the enemy has been driven over the lower RISLE and PONT AUDEMER is in our hands.

Heavy fighting is in progress in the area north of BREST on the BRITTANY peninsula where the enemy garrison is offering stubborn resistance. Gun positions and fortified targets at BREST were again attacked without loss by escorted heavy bombers.

Attacks on enemy transport in northeast FRANCE by our fighter bombers and fighters are being extended into BELGIUM and GERMANY. Locomotives and hundreds of motor vehicles and railway cars - some loaded with ammunition and oil - have been destroyed or damaged during the last 24 hours, especially near the SEINE at ROUEN. Marshalling yards at GISORS and CHARLEROI also were hit. Rail movements in the LILLE - AMIENS - DIEPPE area have been pounded incessantly.

Concentrations of enemy troops and vehicles seeking passage over the SEINE were hit throughout the day by waves of escorted light and medium bombers which dropped fragmentation and high explosive bombs. Their targets also included four fuel dumps to the east and southeast of ROUEN.

Enemy air opposition was slight, but heavy anti-aircraft fire has been concentrated at many points to the east of the SEINE. Six enemy aircraft were shot down and at least twelve others were destroyed on the ground. Seven of our bombers and 17 fighters are missing.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 142

28 August 44

Allied forces which crossed the SEINE south of PARIS are continuing their eastward drive between the MARNE and the SEINE. At the southern end of this sector, elements have advanced beyond TROYES, and other units are in the immediate vicinity of RD MILLY-SUR-SEINE. NOGENT SUR SEINE is in our hands. Our troops are approaching PROVINS, and, to the northwest, they have advanced to the vicinity of LAGNY.

The enemy has been cleared from BOURDENAY and ST. LUPIEN, south of NOGENT-SUR-SEINE.

In the PARIS area, the situation is now generally ~~quiet~~ quiet, although resistance continued on Sunday at CHAMPIGNY. The BOIS DE BOULOGNE has been cleared of Germans but minor isolated groups have been operating in the BOIS DE MEUDON, on the southwestern outskirts of the city.

Elimination of enemy forces between PARIS and MANTES-GASSICOURT has been proceeding mainly in the vicinity of VILLENES-SUR-SEINE, near POISSY.

The Allied bridgeheads over the SEINE at MANTES-GASSICOURT, VERNON and east of ELBEUF were strengthened and enlarged.

Our troops pushed eastwards from PONT AUDEMER in face of stubborn enemy resistance, and the road from that town to BOURG-ACHARD is now in our hands. The clearing of the FORET DE LA LONDE is now almost complete.

In BRITTANY, gains have been made by forces fighting near BREST.

Enemy troops, vehicles and barges concentrated on the west bank of the SEINE at ROUEN have been attacked throughout the last 24 hours by hundreds of Allied airplanes. Waves of light and medium bombers dropped thousands of fragmentation and high explosive bombs in their second consecutive day of operations against these targets, despite intense anti-aircraft fire. Attacks lasting several hours were also delivered by strong formations of fighters and fighter bombers. Results were excellent.

Other formations of light and medium bombers hit two fuel dumps at BUCY LES PIERREPONT and in the FORET DU SAMOUSSY, northwest of REIMS, as well as radion installations near BOULOGNE.

Locomotives, military vehicles and hundreds of railway cars were destroyed or damaged by other fighters which bombed and strafed over a wide territory from the mouth of the SEINE to LUXEMBOURG, GERMANY and into DENMARK.

Escorted heavy bombers again hit shipping targets at BREST, without loss.

At least 16 enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and 14 on the ground. Seventeen of ours are missing.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 143

29 August 44

Allied forces which crossed the SEINE at TROYES have reached a point approximately 15 miles northeast of the town, and another crossing has been made several miles to the north. Other elements are in the immediate vicinity of ARCIS-SUR-AUBE.

Troops advancing north and east below the MARNE have reached MONTMIRAIL. LA FERTE-SOUS JOUARRE has been liberated. Forces north of the river have advanced to within six miles of CHATEAU THIERRY. North of MEAUX, Allied armored units have reached CUVERGNON, 14 miles from the MARNE, in a rapid advance against light resistance.

The bridgeheads over the SEINE below PARIS, at MANTES-GASSICOURT, VERNON and PONT DE L'ARCHE have all been extended. Varied enemy resistance was encountered on the north side of the river near MANTES-GASSICOURT. Our forces in the two other bridgeheads have made good progress. Another bridgehead east of LOUVIERS has now been established. Our troops are firmly along the general line of the SEINE and the only ground south of the river remaining in enemy hands is in the loop between ELBEUF and the sea.

In BRITTANY, Allied forces closing in on BREST from three sides continue to make slow, steady progress against heavy opposition.

Our long-range fighters, operating well ahead of the advancing Allied armies, carried out low-level attacks on road, rail and water communications in northeastern FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, LUXEMBOURG, and western GERMANY. Extensive destruction was wrought, including some 320 locomotives, 279 railway cars, and three ammunition trains. Many barges were damaged, two railway marshalling yards were attacked and 17 enemy aircraft were destroyed in combat, in addition to some on the ground. Twenty-three of our long-range fighters are missing.

The area between the SEINE and the SOMME was swept by our close support fighters and fighter bombers. There were fewer targets but much damage was inflicted on road transport.

Fuel dumps at HAM, DOULLENS and south of AMIENS were the principal targets for medium and light bombers and a successful attack was carried out on an ammunition dump in the FORET DE LAIGLE near COMPIEGNE. The SEINE ferry at DUCLAIR was also raided and great destruction was caused to barges and massed vehicles.

Small groups of enemy shipping off the PAS DE CALAIS were attacked by our coastal aircraft yesterday morning and some vessels were left ablaze.

Yesterday evening, heavy bombers attacked shipping at BREST and a battery on the island of CEZEMBRE near ST. MALO.

Last night, low level attacks from the battlefront to STRASBOURG were continued by our light bombers. Targets included marshalling yards near METZ, rail installations at CHARLEVILLE, ABBEVILLE, ARRAS and DOULLENS, a large horse-drawn convoy at LAON, and other road transport.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 144

30 August 1944

Allied forces, continuing their sweep beyond PARIS, have crossed the AISNE and the MARNE rivers. In the upper MARNE valley, mopping-up is in progress in VITRY LE FRANCOIS, and our troops have reached MARSON and LEPINE, southeast and east of CHALONS-SUR-MARNE. Other units are less than one mile south of CHALONS on the west side of the river.

CHATEAU THIERRY, on the MARNE, has been occupied, and our armored units have moved north to take SOISSONS and establish a bridgehead across the AISNE at PONT ARCY, 14 miles to the east. Other troops are advancing through the area between the MARNE and the AISNE, north of MEAUX and CHATEAU THIERRY.

In the PARIS area, advances have been made through the northeastern outskirts of the city beyond LE BOURGET and MONTMORENCY, and further west, elements have cleared the FORET DE ST. GERMAIN and moved northward to a point less than two miles south of PONTOISE.

The bridgehead across the SEINE in the vicinity of MANTES-GASSICOURT has been further enlarged to the north and to the east beyond MEULAN. Contact was made with troops from the bridgeheads to the north.

Advancing from the VERNON bridgehead, our troops pushed across the PARIS - ROUEN road to the town of ETREPAGNY and from there to the village of LONGCHAMPS. The PARIS - ROUEN road was also cut near the village of ECOUIS by troops from the LOUVIERS bridgehead. In the evening, contact was established between these two bridgeheads.

Southeast of ROUEN, our forces advanced in the face of persistent opposition and captured the village of BOOS, some five miles from the center of ROUEN. In the CAUDEBEC area, fighting was heavy, but the FORET DE BROTONNE was cleared and the whole of this loop of the river is now in our hands.

In BRITTANY, hard fighting continues at BREST as Allied forces close in slowly on the port.

Air operations yesterday were restricted by weather.

Fighters and fighter bombers attacked enemy rail and road movement over a wide area in the LOW COUNTRIES, western GERMANY and in FRANCE as far south as LYONS. Large numbers of locomotives, railway cars and motor transport were attacked successfully, and 20 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground near BRUSSELS. Six of our aircraft are missing.

TO: Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.
FROM: SHAEF signed SCAEF.

ROUND-UP COMMUNIQUE

30 Aug 44

1. The following facts will be released here to the press at 1900 hours double British summer time on 31 August. They may be released in WASHINGTON and LONDON at that time and hour.

2. (Report begins) Enemy Losses: The equivalent of 5 Panzer Divisions have been destroyed and a further 6 severely mauled, including 1 Panzer Grenadier Division. The equivalent of 20 Infantry Divisions have been eliminated and a further 12 very badly cut up and have suffered severe losses. Included in this total of Infantry Divisions are 3 of the enemy's crack Parachute Divisions. In addition 1 Parachute Division and 2 Infantry Divisions have no hope of escape from the fortress ports of BRITTANY peninsula in which they are marooned. One Infantry Division is isolated in the Channel Islands.

3. Enemy Casualties: Total enemy casualties amount to over 400,000 killed, wounded and prisoners of war, of which over 200,000 are prisoners of war. 135,000 of these prisoners have been captured since 25 July. The total continues to mount. 1,300 enemy tanks and over 20,000 M.T. have been captured or destroyed. About 500 assault guns and 1,500 field and heavier artillery guns have been captured or destroyed. In addition the enemy has suffered very heavy losses in coast artillery equipment.

The German Seventh Army and newly formed Fifth Panzer Army have been decisively defeated and into this defeat have been drawn the bulk of the fighting strength of First and Fifteenth Armies. Three Field Marshals and one Army Commander have either been dismissed or incapacitated by wounds. One Army Commander, three Corps Commanders, 15 Divisional Commanders and one Fortress Commander have been either killed or captured.

4. Enemy Air Losses: In the air the LUFTWAFFE has taken a fearful beating. Since 6 June, 2,378 German aircraft have been destroyed in the air and 1,167 on the ground. In addition, 270 aircraft were probably destroyed and 1,028 aircraft were damaged in the air.

5. Enemy Naval Losses: At sea the enemy has been unable, in spite of his former boasting, to interfere seriously with the invasion forces. Enemy attacks on convoys have been driven off on very many occasions and losses to Allied shipping have been small. Of the enemy's naval forces, some 300 vessels of all classes have been sunk or heavily damaged by Allied action. In addition, a number of enemy merchant ships have been sunk and the Germans themselves have been forced to scuttle, in their harbors, large numbers of all types of shipping, both naval and mercantile.

A large proportion of the enemy's effort has been devoted to attack by mine-laying. The sustained work of minesweepers has resulted, within three months, in a "mine-bag" off the FRENCH beaches which totals 1/10 of all mines swept in five years in all theatres of war.

6. Allied Team Work: Allied team work, extending through all services, has again demonstrated its ability to overcome the most adverse kind of conditions in defeating the enemy. Allied units from other countries have fought effectively alongside American and British Forces and the FFI have done much valuable work.

The command system has functioned smoothly in spite of difficulties due to enforced separation of Commanders and of poor signal communications due to distances and rapidly changing situation.

Many factors are woven into the warp and woof of this great victory. Among these a few are listed below, with no attempt to give their order of importance. One was meticulous care in planning and preparation, supported resolutely in all important aspects by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Another was the fact that we achieved some degree of surprise involving place, timing and strength of the attack. The excellence and sufficiency of amphibious equipment, with measures for dealing with beach defences and obstacles, was also important. The brilliant preparatory work of the Air Forces, a belief in the effectiveness of which was the very cornerstone of the original invasion conception, began months ago and reached its highest intensity at the very moment of landing. It is my conviction that except for this aerial preparation, including as a specific mission a prolonged campaign against the transportation systems of northwest EUROPE, the venture could not have logically been undertaken. The air support of ground forces has been most effective throughout the campaign. The supply and maintenance services have performed miracles. But the greatest factor of all has been the fighting qualities of the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the United Nations. Their valor, stamina and devotion to duty have been beyond praise. They will continue to be.

(Telegram to Combined Chiefs of Staff on result of operations in Northern FRANCE between 6 June (D Day) and 25th August.)

COMMUNIQUE NO. 145

31 August 1944

Allied armor yesterday drove swiftly northward from the bridgeheads over the lower SEINE. By-passing scattered areas of enemy resistance, our forces captured GOURNAY EN BRAY, BEAUVAIS and MARSEILLE EN BEAUVAISIS and leading troops are now within 20 miles of AMIENS.

Further west, we have reached a point eight miles northeast of ROUEN, and FLEURY SUR ANDELLE is in our hands. Opposite DUCLAIR, our troops cleared the enemy from the south bank of the SEINE.

Troops from the MANTES-GASSICOURT bridgehead are advancing northward along the EPTE river and have reached a point less than two miles south of CHAUMONT-EN-VERGIN.

Other advances were made beyond the northern suburbs of PARIS.

In the drive to the east of the capital, Allied forces have reached REIMS. Armored units, moving towards the AISNE river, are ten miles north of REIMS, and elements which crossed the VESLE river are now several miles southeast of the city.

Our reconnaissance elements have penetrated to points two and one-half miles north and northeast of LAON and to MONTAIGU, ten miles southeast. The bridgehead across the AISNE near SOISSONS has been extended east and north.

In the MARNE valley, our troops have crossed the river and are opposite EPERNAY, with some elements one mile south of the town. Up river, forces which made another crossing have reached LES GRANDES LOGES, eight miles northwest of CHALONS-SUR-MARNE on the CHALONS - REIMS road.

Allied air activity was sharply curtailed yesterday by thick clouds over northeast FRANCE. Light and medium bombers attacked by instruments the enemy forces still occupying the small but strongly fortified island of CEZEMBRE off the entrance to ST. MALO harbor. Others bombed a large enemy oil storage center in the FORET d'ARQUES near DIEPPE.

Several enemy aircraft were shot up on the ground near COPENHAGEN by fighter bombers which also operated over the SKAGERRAK. Other small forces harassed enemy movements in the ROUEN - ABBEVILLE - GOURNAY area as weather permitted.